

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A rubber composition based on ~~at least~~ a diene elastomer, a reinforcing filler, a plasticizing system and a cross-linking system, wherein characterized in that said plasticizing system comprises (phr = parts by weight per hundred parts of elastomer):

between 5 and 35 phr of an MES or TDAE oil; and

between 5 and 35 phr of a polylimonene resin.

2. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is between 5 and 25 phr.

3. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 2, wherein the amount of polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is between 5 and 20 phr.

4. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, any one of ~~Claims 1 to 3~~, the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the polylimonene resin is ~~being~~ greater than 40°C.

5. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 4, wherein Tg is ~~being~~ greater than 50°C.

6. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein any one of Claims 1 to 5, the number-average molecular weight (Mn) of the polylimonene resin is being between 400 and 2000 g/mol.

7. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 6, wherein Mn is being between 500 and 1000 g/mol.

8. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the amount of MES or TDAE oil is being between 10 and 30 phr.

9. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 8, wherein the amount of MES or TDAE oil is being between 10 and 25 phr.

10. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein the amount of total plasticizing system is being between 15 and 45 phr.

11. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 10, wherein the amount of total plasticizing system is being between 20 and 40 phr.

12. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein any one of Claims 1 to 9, the plasticizing system furthermore comprising comprises an unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

13. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1 ~~12~~, wherein the plasticizing system furthermore comprises an unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid triester of glycerol which triester is being a glycerol trioleate.

14. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 13, wherein the glycerol trioleate being is present in the form of a vegetable sunflower oil or rapeseed oil.

15. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein any one of Claims 12 to 14, the amount of triester being is between 5 and 35 phr.

16. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein any one of Claims 12 to 15, the amount of total plasticizing system being is between 20 and 70 phr.

17. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 16, wherein the amount of total plasticizing system being is between 30 and 60 phr.

18. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein any one of Claims 1 to 17, the diene elastomer is being selected from among the group consisting of polybutadienes, natural rubber, synthetic polyisoprenes, butadiene copolymers, isoprene copolymers and mixtures of these elastomers.

19. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1, wherein any one of Claims 1 to 18, the amount of reinforcing filler is being between 20 and 200 phr.

20. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 1 19, wherein the amount of reinforcing filler is being between 30 phr and 150 phr.

21. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claims 19 or 20, wherein the reinforcing filler comprising comprises majoritarily an inorganic filler in an amount of more than 50% by weight relative to the quantity of said reinforcing filler.

22. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 21, wherein the inorganic reinforcing filler being is silica.

23. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claims 19 or 20, wherein the reinforcing filler comprising comprises majoritarily an organic filler in an amount of more than 50% by weight relative to the quantity of said reinforcing filler.

24. (Currently amended) A The composition according to Claim 23, wherein the reinforcing organic filler being is carbon black.

25. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a rubber composition having an improved resistance to abrasion and to cuts, this composition ~~being~~ based on a diene elastomer, a reinforcing filler, a plasticizing system and a cross-linking system, said process comprising the following steps:

incorporating in a diene elastomer, during a first step referred to as "non-productive", at least a reinforcing filler and a plasticizing system, by thermomechanically kneading the entire mixture, in one or more stages, until a maximum temperature of between 110°C and 190°C is reached;

cooling the entire mixture to a temperature of less than 100°C;
then incorporating, during a second step referred to as "productive", the cross-linking system; and
kneading the entire mixture until a maximum temperature of less than 110°C is reached,
~~and being characterized in that~~ wherein said plasticizing system comprises:

between 5 and 35 phr of an MES or TDAE oil; and

between 5 and 35 phr of a polylimonene resin.

26. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process according to Claim 25, wherein the amount of polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is between 5 and 25 phr.

27. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The process according to Claim 26, wherein the amount of polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is between 5 and 20 phr.

28. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein any one of ~~Claims 25 to 27~~, the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the polylimonene resin ~~being~~ is greater than 40°C.

29. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein any one of ~~Claims 25 to 28~~, the number-average molecular weight (Mn) of the polylimonene resin ~~is~~ being between 400 and 2000 g/mol.

30. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein any one of ~~Claims 25 to 29~~, the amount of MES or TDAE oil ~~is~~ being between 10 and 30 phr.

31. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein any one of ~~Claims 25 to 30~~, the amount of total plasticizing system ~~is~~ being between 15 and 45 phr.

32. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein any one of ~~Claims 25 to 31~~, the plasticizing system furthermore ~~comprising~~ comprises an unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

33. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 32, wherein the plasticizing system furthermore comprises unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid trister of glycerol which is ~~trimester~~ being a glycerol trioleate.

34. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 33, wherein the glycerol trioleate ~~being~~ is present in the form of a vegetable sunflower oil or rapeseed oil.

35. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 32 or 33, wherein any one of Claims 32 to 34, the amount of trimester is being between 5 and 35 phr.

36. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 32, wherein any one of Claims 32 to 35, the amount of total plasticizing system is being between 20 and 70 phr.

37. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein any one of Claims 25 to 36, the diene elastomer being is selected from among the group consisting of polybutadienes, natural rubber, synthetic polyisoprenes, butadiene copolymers, isoprene copolymers and mixtures of these elastomers.

38. (Currently amended) A The process according to Claim 25, wherein any one of Claims 25 to 37, the amount of reinforcing filler is being between 20 and 200 phr.

39. - 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended) A finished article intended for a suspension system of a motor vehicle, comprising a composition according to Claim 1 any one of Claims 1 to 24.

44. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The finished article according to Claim 43, consisting of a tire.

45. (Currently amended) A winter tire comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 12 any one of Claims 12 to 17.

46. (Currently amended) A semi-finished product intended for a suspension system of a motor vehicle, comprising a composition according to Claim 1 any one of Claims 1 to 24.

47. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The semi-finished product according to Claim 46, consisting of a tire tread.

48. (Currently amended) ~~A tread for a winter tire~~ having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 12 any one of Claims 12 to 17.

49. (Currently amended) A plasticizing system usable for the plasticizing of a diene rubber composition, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said plasticizing system comprises an MES or TDAE oil and a polylimonene resin.

50. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The plasticizing system according to Claim 49, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said plasticizing system furthermore comprises an unsaturated (C₁₂-C₂₂) fatty acid triester of glycerol.

51. (Currently amended) A The plasticizing system according to Claim 50, wherein the triester ~~being~~ is a glycerol trioleate.

52. (Currently amended) A The plasticizing system according to Claim 51, wherein the glycerol trioleate ~~is being~~ present in the form of a vegetable sunflower oil or rapeseed oil.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 13.

55. (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 14.

56. (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 15.

57. (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 16.

58. (New) A winter tire having a tread comprising a rubber composition according to Claim 17.